

ABSTRACT

The present invention is directed to an annealing apparatus adapted for performing anneal processing with respect to a magneto optical recording medium, which comprises a diffraction optical unit (3) for optically separating light beams emitted from a laser light source (1) into first light beams which are the 0 (zero)-th order diffracted light beams and second and third light beams which are the first order diffracted light beams, an object lens (5) for converging the first light beams to irradiate the first light beams thus converged onto magnetic layers of guide grooves or land portions forming both sides of the guide grooves, and for converging the second and third light beams to irradiate the second and third light beams thus converged onto magnetic layers in the vicinity of the boundary portions between guide grooves and land portions, and a biaxial actuator unit (6) for controlling the object lens (5) on the basis of linear characteristic of a first tracking error signal generated on the basis of intensity distribution of light quantities of rays of return light of the first light beams so that the first light beams follow the guide grooves or the land portions.